THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 12,071 hectares of Village forests and Revenue forests land is under encroachment in K.B.K. area of Orissa.

(c) and (d) As a result of the eviction measures taken by the State Government, 2954 hectares of ineligible encroachments have been evicted so far.

Construction of Transmission Towers across rivers

3408. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received on the negative impact of construction of transmission towers across rivers in the Country;

(b) if so, the details of such problems;

(c) whether the River Conservation Programme has any policy which deals with the un-planned construction of power transmission towers in the lower reaches of rivers;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that rivers and their flows are not negatively affected by such un-planned construction;

(e) whether any inspection has been done till date; and

(f) if so, the details in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) A representation from Chairman, Forum on Special and Human Rights is reported to have been received in the Union Ministry of Power raising certain points relating to the construction of transmission towers across rivers by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) in general and across Godavari river in particular. This representation was sent by the Ministry of Power to PGCIL. The PGCIL after examining the matter is reported to have informed that rivers enroute the transmission lines are normally crossed by placing towers on the banks of the river and in case where the width of the river is large, mid-stream towers are provided on pile or well foundations. As the

size of the structure is small, they do not alter the river currents/free flow of water in a river and as such pose no environmental concerns. These foundations are generally constructed away from perennial river streams to avoid obstruction to navigation and danger to boats and steamers.

As per the information furnished by the Union Ministry of Power, construction of transmission line is taken up as per the programme of planned development in the transmission system. Where it is necessary to have transmission line across rivers, very high towers of special designs are used for river crossing so as to avoid towers in lower reaches of rivers. The towers in the lower reaches of rivers require pile foundtion involving extra expenditure and therefore, such towers are minimized to the extent possible and as such there is no unplanned construction of power transmission towers in the lower reaches of the rivers. By adopting high towers of special designs, long span across the river is achieved, so that the safety of the towers as well as the flow of the river is not affected.

Recovery of Shahtoosh Shawls

3409. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of Shahtoosh shawls, a restricted production of wool, have been recovered recently;

(b) if so, the number of these shawls and the location thereof;

(c) whether in spite of the forbidden instructions of Government, such shawls are being regularly produced and exported; and

(d) if so, the reasons for negligence in execution of Government instructions and the action to be taken against those who are responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) twenty one shahtoosh shawls have been seized from three locations in New Delhi. The three locations are as follows:

(i) House No. 82, Uday Park
New Delhi